

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 07399 051414Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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O 051330Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2804

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ASMARA

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 7399

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,ET,US,SA

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR: CAMPBELL AND HARRELL

REF: A) JIDDA 7152

B) STATE 245482

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS
AHMED SIRAJ CALLED US TODAY (NOV 5) AT 1400 LOCAL TO SAY
THAT OUR REQUEST TO PASS A PARCEL OF FOOD AND MEDICINES
TO THE TWO AMERICANS BEING HELD BY THE PLF HAS BEEN "APPROVED."
HE SAID THAT HE HAD SPOKEN THE EVENING OF NOV 4 WITH THE
"PERSONS CONCERNED" AND BEEN ASSURED THAT THE PARCEL WOULD
BE DELIVERED. HE SAID THAT LETTERS FROM THE FAMILIES
OF THE PRISONERS WOULD ALSO BE DELIVERED. HE SAID THAT
WHEN WE WERE READY TO MAKE DELIVERY HE WOULD ARRANGE IT
EITHER THROUGH A SAUDI INTERMEDIARY OR DIRECTLY TO THE
ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES. WE UNDERSTOOD HIM TO MEAN THAT
IT WAS OUR CHOICE.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY SIRAJ CALLED BACK TO SAY THAT IF WE WISHED
TO PASS PARCELS AND LETTERS TO THE TWO BEING HELD BY THE
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 07399 051414Z

ELF NEAR SUDAN, WHICH FOR PURPOSE WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY RE-

QUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO ARRANGE THAT ALSO. THE PACKAGES COULD BE PUT ON AN AIRCRAFT CARRYING RELIEF SUPPLIES TO ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN NEXT WEEK.

3. SIRAJ OFFERED HIS "PERSONAL VIEW" THAT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE USG NOW TO DO SOMETHING TO ASSIST ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN. HE SAID THAT THIS COULD BE DONE EITHER THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS OR THE SAUDI RED CRESCENT SOCIETY.

4. WE WILL BE SEEING SIRAJ LATER TODAY TO GET FURTHER DETAILS. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ELICIT WHAT SIRAJ KNOWS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WHEREABOUTS OF CAMPBELL AND ARRELL. WITHOUT, OF COURSE, IMPLYING THAT THE USG HAS A POSITION ON, OR EVEN AN INTEREST IN, PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN WE WILL ASK SIRAJ WHAT HE HAS IN MIND AND TO WHAT EXTENT HIS SUGGESTION OF ASSISTANCE WAS PURELY "PERSONAL." WITHOUT COMMITTING OURSELVES TO MAKING DELIVERY OF THE FOOD AND MEDICINE PARCEL DIRECTLY TO ERITREAN REPS WE WILL EXPLORE HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE AND TO WHOM THE DELIVERY WOULD BE MADE.

5. WE PRESENTLY PLAN TO ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY OF THE PARCEL FOR CAMPBELL AND HARRELL ON SATURDAY NOV 8.

6. ACTION REQUESTED:

- A. TEXTS OF LETTERS FROM THE FAMILIES OF HARRELL AND CAMPBELL TO ACCOMPANY THE FOOD/MEDICINE PARCEL.
 - B. INSTRUCTIONS WHETHER WE SHOULD ALSO PREPARE PARCELS FOR STRICKLAND AND BOWIDOWICZ. THERE IS LESS URGENCY ABOUT THIS. IF WE KNOW THAT THEY ARE ALREADY RECEIVING PARCELS THROUGH THE INTERMEDIARY OF THE SUDANESE IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE NOT TO COMPLICATE THINGS BY SENDING THEM FROM HERE ALSO.
 - C. INFORMATION ON WHETHER THE USG IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN OR WHETHER THE USG IS PLANNING SUCH ASSISTANCE. (WE APPRECIATE THE DELICACY OF THIS POINT WHICH COULD SMACK OF RANSOM).
 - D. INSTRUCTIONS WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT PREFERS THAT WE ATTEMPT TO DELIVER THE PARCELS DIRECTLY TO ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVES
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PAGE 03 JIDDA 07399 051414Z

SENTATIVES IN JIDDA. WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD FOR THE PRUPOSE OF ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH THE PLF IN ORDER TO MAKE A PITCH FOR THE EARLY, SAFE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF CAMPBELL AND HARRELL. (WE WOULD RECOMMEND TAKING A SAUDI ALONG, AT LEAST FOR THE INITIAL MEETING, AS A MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING AND HOLDING THE SAG'S OFFICIAL INTEREST).

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